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ABSTRACT

A charged particle beam microscope is described, which is equipped with a

minicolumn. Various embodiments are disclosed, suitable for various uses.

According to one embodiment the minicolumn is situated inside a mini-environment

and can be introduced and withdrawn from the main vacuum chamber. According to
other embodiments, the minicolumn is situated inside the main vacuum chamber.

According to further embodiments, a turntable stage is used and the minicolumn is
attached to an arm movable in the radial direction of the turntable.

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